

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-12 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9337

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 331

PASS AMBASSADOR YOUNG, STONEY COOKS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF FEB. 1 MEDIA REACTION.

2. MALTA TALKS. A.P. (GAVSHON) REPORTED THAT AMB. YOUNG SAID IN INTERVIEW AT CONCLUSION OF TALKS THAT IF WAR CONTINUES IN RHODESIA ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO, CUBAN TROOPS AND SOUTH AFRICAN VOLUNTEERS MIGHT BE DRAWN IN ON OPPOSITE SIDES. AMB. YOUNG QUOTED AS SAYING FIGHTING COULD SPILL OVER INTO SOUTH AFRICA AND ZAMBIA. ASKED WHETHER NKOMO AND MUGABE HAD AGREED TO NEGOTIATE A CEASE-FIRE, AMB. YOUNG TOLD A.P. "THEY HAVE SAID THEY COULD NOT STOP THEIR MILITARY STRUGGLE UNTIL THEY ARE SURE THE POLITICAL PROCESS WAS NOT RIGGED AGAINST THEM.... THERE PROBABLY WOULD BE FURTHER MEETINGS WHEN THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVEMENT IN THE DIRECTION OF A CEASE-FIRE.".....ABC-TV (LOU CIOFFI) REPORTED JAN. 31 FROM MALTA THAT THERE ARE INDICATIONS SOME GENERALS IN RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES MAY BE INTERESTED IN ACTING ON THEIR OWN FOR A SETTLEMENT, AND MIGHT BE
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ABLE TO WORK WITH NKOMO, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT TRUST MUGABE. FROM SALISBURY, ABC'S HOWARD TUCKNER REPORTED BISHOP MUZOREWA IS HARSHLY CRITICAL OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE "WE THOUGHT THE AMERICANS WOULD SUPPORT THOSE FAVORING DEMOCRATIC RULE" IN RHODESIA.... UOP SAID AMB. YOUNG, AT END OF MALTA TALKS, SAID SPECIFIC POINTS OF PROGRESS COULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED BECAUSE "THE

WHOLE THING HAS TO BE SEEN AS A PACKAGE. WE CANNOT ASK THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO AGREE TO ANYTHING NOW AS THAT MEANS THEY WOULD LOSE THEIR NEGOTIATING POWER WITH SMITH IN AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. SMITH IS DOING THE BEST HE CAN AND HE IS A SURVIVOR. HE'LL MAKE IT ALL RIGHT. HE'LL GO TO AUSTRALIA OR SOMEWHERE. WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS SEE THAT THE COUNTRY SURVIVES.".....U.S.I.A. MEDIA ROUNDUP SAID BRITISH PRESS REPORTED "A WIDE GULF STILL SEPARATES THE ANGLO-AMERICAN POSITION AND THAT OF THE ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT, BUT FRONT LEADERS SHOWED A WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS.".....NYTIMES (APPLE) REPORTED THAT BRITISH AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS AT MALTA SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS AFTER TWO DAYS OF TALKS. FROM SALISBURY, NYTIMES (BURNS) QUOTED RHODESIAN OFFICIAL AS SAYING SMITH REGIME CONSIDERS MALTA TALKS "IRRELEVANT" AND "HOPELESS," SINCE PATRIOTIC FRONT "HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN A CLEAR TRANSFER OF POWER FROM THE SMITH GOVERNMENT TO THEMSELVES, CUTTING OUT OTHER BLACK LEADERS." MALTA TALKS, NYTIMES SAID, HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY RHODESIAN MEDIA "IN AN OBSCURE MANNER." CENSORSHIP FORBIDS MENTION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT OR ITS LEADERS, OR QUOTES FROM THEM OR INFORMATION ON THEIR POLICIES; MEMBERS OF FRONT MUST ALWAYS BE REFERRED TO AS "TERRORISTS" WITHOUT ELABORATION.... WASHPOST (OTTAWAY) REPORTED "ALTHOUGH THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE SEARCH FOR A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIA PROBLEM WOULD

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CONTINUE TO BE A LONG, DRAWN-OUT AFFAIR," OWEN AND YOUNG "SEEMED RELATIVELY CONTENTED BY THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST SERIOUS BARGAINING SESSION WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADERS.... BRITISH AND AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS HERE WERE HEARTENED BY WHAT STONEY COOKS, YOUNG'S ASSISTANT, CALLED "THE VIBES OF FLEXIBILITY."

3. SOWETO. UPI REPORTED FROM JOHANNESBURG THAT "BLACK YOUTH SET FIRE (FEB.1) TO SCORES OF APPLICATION FORMS ON THE OPENING DAY OF CLASSES FOR AN ESTIMATED 27,000 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SOWETO, WITNESSES SAID. BY LATE MORNING, MOST OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS SCHEDULED TO OPEN WERE DESERTED....TEACHERS FAILED TO REPORT FOR WORK AT THREE OF THE 13 SCHOOLS THAT OPENED THEIR DOORS.... POLICE STOOD GUARD AT THE SCHOOLS AND REPORTED NO ARRESTS."

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PASS AMBASSADOR YOUNG, STONEY COOKS

4. HORN OF AFRICA. U.S. SOURCES IN WASHINGTON TOLD UPI THAT CUBA IS CALLING UP 5,000 MILITARY RESERVES "TO FREE MORE REGULAR TROOPS FOR ITS GROWING EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN ETHIOPIA.... INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THE CUBANS PLAN A FORCE OF AT LEAST 5,500 MEN TO SPEARHEAD AN ETHIOPIAN COUNTEROFFENSIVE THIS SPRING AIMED AT REGAINING THE OGADEN." SOURCES ALSO TOLD UPI THAT SOVIET CARGO SHIPS AND AMPHIBIOUS VESSELS HAVE REMAINED OFF ETHIOPIAN PORT OF MASSAWA. AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS ARE USED TO FERRY MILITARY SUPPLIES FROM CARGO SHIPS, SOURCES SAID....
HODDING CARTER TOLD REPORTERS U.S. "REGRETS BOTH THE TONE AND THE ERRONEOUS SUBSTANCE" OF REMARKS BY ETHIOPIA'S MENGISTU THAT U.S. IS ENCOURAGING ARAB AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO HELP SOMALIA WITH ARMS AND TROOPS.

5. ESPIONAGE. ALL MEDIA REPORTED FERAL GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS AND SUBSEQUENT ARRESTS IN WASHINGTON OF A U.S. I. A. EMPLOYEE AND A VIETNAMESE NATIONAL ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE AGAINST U.S. FIVE OTHER VIETNAMESE, INCLUDING CHIEF DELEGATE TO U.N. DINH BA THI, WERE NAMED AS UNINDICTED CO-CONSPIRATORS (THE OTHER FOUR ARE BASED
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IN PARIS AND HANOI). HODDING CARTER SAID FEB. 1 THAT U.S. WILL PROTEST TO HANOI AND PROBABLY SEEK EXPULSION OF VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TO U.N.

5. MIDEAST. MEDIA CONCENTRATED ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE NEW MILITARY OUTPOSTS INTENDED TO BECOME ISRAELI

CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED WEST BANK. SPOKESMAN
FOR BEGIN, NYTIMES REPORTED, SAID DECISION HAD BEEN
MADE BY ISRAELI CABINET SOME TIME AGO BUT WAS ONLY
NOW BEING CARRIED OUT.... MEDIA ALSO REPORTED PLANS BY
MOSHE DAYAN TO MAKE COAST-TO-COAST SPEAKING TOUR
OF U.S. NEXT WEEK.
LEONARD

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